



# CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARK K. MCQUILLAN  
COMMISSIONER



Appropriations Committee  
March 17, 2010

## Testimony of Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education

ON

### **Raised Bill 5400: AN ACT CONCERNING REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED TEACHERS**

The Department of Education supports Raised Bill 5400 which seeks to make several clarifying changes to section 10-183v of the Connecticut General Statutes, which currently allows a school district to rehire retired teacher under certain circumstances. The Department supports these changes and proposes that an additional change be made to support the state's Phase II Race to the Top application.

Currently, under subsection (b) of 10-183v, a district may hire a retired teacher to teach in a subject shortage area for a full school year, with the opportunity to extend such employment for one additional school year. The Department proposes that this exception be extended to allow high-poverty or high-minority school districts the same flexibility to reemploy a retired school teacher or administrator for up to two years, in any subject area. As part of the Race to the Top application, the state is required to have a plan to ensure that students in high-poverty and/or high-minority schools have equitable access to highly effective teachers and principals. (Connecticut uses the definition for "high poverty" and "high minority" that is provided in section 1111(h)(1)(c)(viii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.) High-poverty and/or high-minority school districts often face barriers to equitable distribution of teachers and administrators due to the fact that their hiring practices tend to begin later in the season when many smaller districts have already hired most of the candidates graduating from the highly regarded teacher preparation programs. In addition, retention of teachers in these districts is frequently a problem as newer teachers seek employment in a less stressed suburban district after three to five years.

Revising subsection (b) of 10-183v as proposed will provide the states neediest districts with much needed access to a pool of qualified, experienced candidates to help ensure equitable distribution of effective teachers and principals across the state.

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